policy holders can also take treatment in any hospital/nursing home of their choice and seek reimbursement of hospitalisation expenses subject to the limits of benefits available under the policy.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The present practice of issuing certificate of cover has been found to be quite satisfactory.

Proportion between Government Deficit and GDP

1955. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in the Union Government's deficit in proportion of gross domestic products; and

(b) if so, what is the present proportion between the two and what are the basis of such calculations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) & (b) Fiscal deficit of the Union Government on the basis of provisional Accounts amounted to Rs. 44650 crores in 1990-91, which was 8.4% of GDP for the year. It is expected to decline to Rs. 37792 crores in RE 1991-92, which would be 6.3% of the estimated GDP for the current year. It is estimated to further go down to Rs. 34408 crores at the end of 1992-93.

Permission to open Banks by Finance and Leasing Companies

1956. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed some finance and leasing companies to open private banks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of stipulations made to operate certain branches in rural areas and to restrict banking operations abroad by such privately opened banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India have reported that there is no proposal as yet to allow finance and leasing companies to operate as banks.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Refinance Scheme for Assistance to Marketing Entrepreneurs

1957. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the refinance scheme for assistance to marketing entrepreneurs to set up outlets for sale of SSI products has been covered under Single Window Scheme of SIDBI and shall be operated through Commercial Bank, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether such loan shall be covered under the Credit Guarantee Scheme of DICGC;

(c) if so, whether Commercial Banks have been instructed not to insist collateral security from the entrepreneurs except mortgage of outlets, fixed assets and hypothecation of movable assets; if so, what are the datails of Circular Letter issued by SIDBI in this regard; and

(d) whether Government have notified, that composite loan under Single Window Scheme shall be operated through Commerical Banks in order to enlarge the flow of assistance, if so, what are the details of the notification, serial-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) had introduced a Refinance Scheme for assistance to marketing entrepreneurs in July, 1990 for strengthening and expanding the marketing infrastructure at villages, small towns and semiurban areas to provide support to all segments of the small scale sector viz. cottage, village, tiny and small units. The scheme is operated through SFCs, SIDCs and banks, including commercial banks, Under the Scheme, assistance is provided to individuals, partnership concerns, private and public limited companies with experience in marketing to set up rates

outlets at a cost not exceeding Rs. 25 lakhs for marketing products of SSI, tiny, cottage and village industries.

Normally marketing organisations are expected to obtain working capital advance from the banks. However, the scheme, *inter-alia*, envisages that SFCs/ twin function IDCs can sanction working capital assistance to the marketing entrepreneurs under the Single Window Scheme for financing stocks of products of SSI units pending finalisation of working capital arrangements with banks.

(b) Such loans for setting up outlets dealing solely with the products of artisans, village and cottage industries can be covered under the credit guarantee scheme of DICGC.

(c) SIDBI has reported that the term loans under the scheme should be secured by a first charge by way of mortgage/hypothecation of fixed assets of show-room/sale outlet in favour of the primary leading agency. In case of the existing units seeking assistance for expansion/renovation, the charge shall rank *paripassu* with the existing first charge, if any. No collateral security in favour of SIDBI is insisted upon under the scheme.

(d) Policy measures for promoting and strengthening small tiny and village entrepreneurs announced by Government of India, Ministry of Industry on August 6, 1991, *inter-alia*, state that composite loans under Single Window Scheme which has been enlarged to cover projects upto Rs. 20 lakhs with working capital requirement upto Rs. 10 lakhs which was hitherto available only through SFCs and twin function IDCs would also be channelised through commercial banks. Accordingly, SIDBI has extended the Single Window Scheme to scheduled Commercial Banks since February 18, 1992.

Loan Schemes offered by SBI

1958. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Bank of India and its subsidiaries have introduced 'Big Buy Scheme' to achieve high value consumer qualities, ensuring that the privileges of civilisation are no longer the prerogative of the privileged;

(b) if so, what are the details of such schemes and details of monthly repayment scheduled;

(c) whether it is also a fact that certain branches of SBI are not honouring such requests referred in part (a) above on the flimsy excuses that they have not received such circulars for compliance; and

(d) if so, what are the details of such circulars and what action Government propose to take against the erring officials; if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, 'Big Buy Scheme' was introduced by State Bank of India in March, 1988 to enable the permanent employees of Central/State Government and Public Sector/Private Sector to purchase consumer durables viz. scooters, cars, refrigerators, washing machines etc. Such employees should have put in 5 years permanent service and net monthly income should not be less than Rs. 1,500/-. The loan amount is restricted to 12 times net monthly income/salary subject to a miximum of Rs. 1 lakh. The margin is 25% and rate of interest is 23.25% per annum. The loan is repayable in equated 36 to 60 months monthly repayments. At present on a loan of Rs. 10,000/- the monthly instalment for a loan repayable in 60 months is Rs. 281/- This scheme also covers professionals and self-employed persons with a minimum of 5 years' standings.

(c) and (d) State Bank of India has reported that the scheme is at present operated by metropolitan urban and other identified authorised branches. However, at present in terms of Reserve Bank of India instructions, the bank is to ensure that there is no increase in the credit outstanding under loan scheme for purchase of consumer durables, which includes the Big Buy Scheme of SBI.

Irregularities in Operation Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme

1959. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of gross irregularities have been detected involving crores of rupees by certain exchange operators with the introduction of the Remittances in Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme;